

77. The process according to claim 62, wherein the anion exchanger has a particle size of from 10 to 100  $\mu\text{m}$  and a pore diameter of from 1 to 2,500 nm.

78. The process according to claim 62, wherein the anion exchanger has a particle size of from 1 to 250  $\mu\text{m}$  and a pore diameter of from 100 to 400 nm.

79. The process of claim 67, wherein the aqueous alcoholic solution includes from 1 to 7 M sodium perchlorate, from 1 to 7 M guanidine-HCl, from 1 to 5 M sodium chloride, from 1 to 6 M sodium iodide, and 1 M sodium chloride/20% ethanol, propanol, isopropanol, butanol, poly(ethylene glycol), or a mixture thereof.

80. The process of claim 62, wherein the eluant is a buffer solution that comprises water and Tris at a pH value of from 5 to 9.

#### REMARKS

The present claims are 62-80, which replace cancelled claims 40-59.

Claim 62 contains subject matter from cancelled claim 40; rewritten to more clearly define the present invention. Claims 63-80 define subject matter corresponding to cancelled claims 41-59, respectively.

The claims in the parent application were finally rejected under 35 USC §103. Applicant considers that the rejection might be the result of mistaken claim interpretation; that is, an interpretation that might be missing the double separation/purification aspect of the present invention.

The present invention is a process involving double separation/purification; whereby, in effect, twice-purified nucleic acids are obtained. There is no apparent motivation to combine two alternative purification procedures (Henco and Little) in

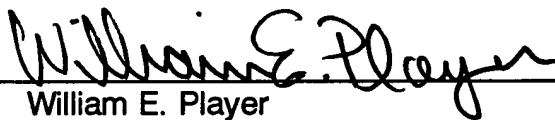
tandem. That is, at best, the skilled artisan would have considered using either Henco's or Little's procedure as a purification tool for nucleic acids; but, not both procedures together, one after the other.

By the present, the double purification aspect of the present invention is more clearly defined; as found in new claim 62. More precisely, claim 62 defines "two separation/purification stages": a "first separation/purification stage," involving separation *via* "an anion exchanger"; followed by "a second separation/purification stage," involving separation *via* "a mineral support material"; said two stages "effecting twice-purified nucleic acids."

Favorable action commensurate with the foregoing is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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